



LIBRARY



Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

30th May, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members
Sturminster Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

I am indebted to Mr. Dean and Mr. Hodson, your Sanitary Inspectors, for their co-operation and help during the year and for their assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss L. Davidge, for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

John D. Pearson
Medical Officer of Health.

3. Consumers in Dorchester R.D. served direct from Sturminster R.D.C's main (approx. -	2,000,000	
Sherborne R.D.C. 1. Holwell and Bishops Caundle	<u>7,839,000</u>	<u>14,416,000</u>
		<u>117,674,000</u>
<u>Add bulk supply from Wincanton R.D.C.</u>		<u>20,691,000</u>
Net District Consumption		<u>138,365,000</u>
Total water afforded by metered supplies		<u>47,648,000</u>
Total unmetered water supplied (mainly domestic)		<u>90,717,000</u>

Average per head per day = 27 gallons based on
Population of 9279 persons.

Reliable Yields. The Council's own sources of water supply are from springs from greensand outcrops, and actual gaugings give the following reliable yields:-

Cookwell, Okeford Fitzpaine	150,000	g.p.d.
Duntish, Buckland Newton	96,000	g.p.d.
Ibberton	26,000	g.p.d.
Shillingstone	26,000	g.p.d.
Total -	<u>298,000</u>	g.p.d.

It was possible to avoid restriction of water supplies during 1951 chiefly owing to the fact that it was an abnormally wet year. Increased consumption of water mainly caused by the development of new sewerage schemes, made acute the urgency to have water available from the new source at Alton Pancras.

New Works. The following new works were carried out during the year and were almost completed:-

- { 1) New Pumping Station and Pumping installations at Alton Pancras.
- { 2) New Reservoir (200,000 gallons capacity) at Rake Hill, Alton Pancras.
- { 3) New mains 2", 3" and 4" at Marnhull, Manston and Hazelbury Bryan.
- { 4) New 9" main from Rake Hill Reservoir to existing reservoir at Buckland Newton.

<u>New Connections.</u>	(i) for domestic use	51
	(ii) for agricultural purposes	39
	(iii) for other purposes	14

Water Examination.

Bacteriological.

Chlorinated. Unchlorinated.

43	47	satisfactory
	3	unsatisfactory.

(a) Public.

Duntish	11	11
Cookwell	11	12
Ibberton	11	11
Shillingstone	9	10
Alton Pancras	1	6

(b) Private.

14 miscellaneous samples have been taken from wells and springs.

Chemical.

Shillingstone Spring	-	1
Cookwell Spring	-	1
Ibberton Spring	-	1
Duntish Spring	-	1

The fluorine content of all the supplies is less than 0.01 parts per million.

Distribution.

PARISH	Council Mains			Private Mains.			Wells etc.	
	In	Out	Public Standpipes	In	Out	Public Standpipes	In	Out
Child Okeford	104	26	-	4	-	-	1	26
Fifchead Magdalen	26	3	-	4	-	-	-	-
Fifchead Neville	34	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hazelbury Bryan	115	20	-	1	-	-	-	1
Hanford	8	2	-	-	-	-	1	10
Hammoon	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Hinton St. Mary	7	-	-	35	14	-	-	-
Ibberton	19	6	2	1	-	4	-	2
Lydlinch	54	22	-	-	-	-	2	-
Nanston	33	9	-	-	-	-	1	2
Mappowder	37	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Marnhull	246	38	11	5	-	-	1	7
Okeford Fitzpaine	108	8	8	7	-	-	2	31
Pulham	32	6	4	-	-	-	-	-
Stalbridge	260	29	18	-	-	-	-	-
Shillingstone	126	10	-	4	-	-	-	5
Stoke Wake	-	-	-	12	4	-	4	17
Stourton Caundle	49	-	10	2	-	-	-	-
Sturminster Newton	392	27	20	-	-	-	1	7
Woolland	-	-	-	16	3	-	1	3
Wootton Glanvilles	36	3	-	13	-	-	-	7
TOTAL	1701	216	75	104	21	5	15	123
Priors Down Council houses	36 886							
TOTAL	2623	216	75	104	21	5	15	123

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Sewage Works at Stalbridge and Shillingstone are operated by a full-time attendant at each works, and are satisfactory.

Maintenance by a "flying-squad" is carried out satisfactorily at Marnhull, Manston, Stourton Caundle, Hazelbury Bryan, Pulham and Glanvilles Wootton.

Sewage works at Okeford Fitzpaine and Glanvilles Wootton were completed during the year, and substantial progress made on Marnhull No. 2 Scheme, Contract No. 3 for part Child Okeford and the Mappowder Sewerage Scheme. The latter scheme, however, is well behind its scheduled time and difficulties have been experienced with the contractors carrying out the works.

Samples of effluent. Samples from all Sewage Works have been regularly taken at three monthly intervals and most of the results have been satisfactory.

Approved schemes. The following sewerage schemes have been approved by the Ministry of Health but have not yet been commenced:-

- (a) Child Okeford Contract No. 5.
- (b) Marnhull and Hinton St. Mary - remaining part of parishes, and extension of sewage disposal works.
- (c) Sturminster Newton - sewerage and sewage disposal works.
- (d) Hazelbury Bryan - remaining part of parish and extension of sewage disposal works.

Proposed schemes. A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal is being prepared for the King Stagg area of Lydlinch, but has not yet been before the Ministry of Health, and is being submitted as a matter of urgency in view of existing serious drainage nuisances.

Drainage works and conversion of E.Cs. to W.Cs. Considerable progress has been made by the Council in the linking up of houses to the sewers, and also the conversion of E.Cs. to W.Cs. under Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936.

No. of conversions carried out = 40.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. During the year the refuse tip at Whiteway, Marnhull was closed down and returned to the owner. In the meantime the Council was able to make arrangements for the use of a tip at Copse House Quarry, Stalbridge, and all refuse from the whole of the district was tipped at this Quarry pending the availability of a tip at Fifehead Neville.

A Ministry of Health Inquiry was held during the year regarding a Compulsory Purchase Order for 4.39 acres of land at Fifehead Neville proposed to be used as a controlled refuse tip, and the Order was later confirmed.

(b) Salvage. The following materials were salvaged and sold during the year:-

	Weight.			Value.		
	t.	c.	q.	lbs.	£.	s.
Waste Paper	36.	14.	-.	-.	497.	17.
Newspaper	1.	9.	-.	10.	28.	18.
Books	5.	-.	1.	7.	91.	7.
Rags	1.	2.	3.	18.	33.	18.
Bagging	10.	2.	-.	1.	3.	16.
Mixed Metal	9.	3.	-.	13.	24.	7.
String	2.	3.	-.	15.		14.
Carpet	2.	2.	-.	12.		13.
Flock	1.	2.	-.	15.		8.
Bones	12.	2.	-.	12.	3.	11.
	46.	6.	1.	19.	£685.	13.
						10.

There was some considerable increase in the value of materials salvaged principally owing to the increased prices paid for waste paper.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. The cesspool emptying service operated under Section 74 of the Public Health Act 1936 has again done very useful work and has undoubtedly reduced the number of nuisances, and has also enabled urgent steps to be quickly taken to abate urgent nuisances.

The cesspool emptier is also used in connection with the maintenance of the small sewage disposal works in small villages and on housing estates.

No. of cesspools emptied during the year = 538.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Negotiations have taken place during the year regarding the effluent of three Milk Factories which were found to be polluting the River Stour, and its tributaries, and which have resulted in one factory closing down, and tentative agreements regarding the other two for the reception of effluent in new sewerage schemes, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act 1937.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	24
No. of defects found	3
No. of notices served	1
No. of notices complied with	1

7: FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	<u>No. on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	19	3
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	27	23	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	28	36	4
Total -	71	78	9

	<u>No. of cases in which defects were -</u>		
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector.</u>

Want of cleanliness	2	2	-
Sanitary conveniences ..			
(a) insufficient	3	3	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	3	2
Total -	9	8	2

No. of outworkers = 125

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no swimming baths in the district to which the public have access.

10. MOVABLE DWELLINGS & CAMPING SITES.

Licences were granted in respect to the use of 4 movable dwellings during the year. No camping sites were licensed.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The following infestations have been dealt with during the year -

<u>Cockroaches.</u>	<u>Fleas.</u>	<u>Flies.</u>	<u>Crickets.</u>	<u>Ants.</u>
5	4	3	3	1

D.D.T. powder or Gammoxane were used in these disinfestations.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities now cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District. An increase in the staff and activities of this Committee is proposed at the present time.

65 infestations by rats and one infestation by mice were dealt with during the year.

Sewers have been treated in Stalbridge and Sturminster Newton. Poisons have been supplied by the Joint Committee for treating Council property. In this respect the Council's foreman and one workman have attended a two day course in rodent control and are available for treating Council property.

13. RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No premises in the district are registered or licensed under this Act.

14. SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

No. of inspections of schools	15
No. of inspections of school canteens	18

The general standard of cleanliness at the three school canteens has been consistently good throughout the year.

15. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - SECTION 47.

It was not necessary to initiate action under Section 47 of the above-mentioned Act in respect of any case in the district during the year.

16. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

(1) (1) Total No. of dwellings inspected during the year	521
(2) No. of inspections made for the purpose	744
(2) (a) No. of informal notices served	34
(b) No. of informal notices complied with	30
(c) No. of statutory notices served	10
(d) No. of statutory notices complied with	7
(3) (1) No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	10
(2) Action taken by Local Authority in respect to such houses -	
(i) Demolition Orders made	1
(ii) Undertakings accepted for -	
(1) Closure	Nil
(2) Reconditioning	6
(iii) Other action	3

In addition to cottages which have been dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936, 25 cottages have been reconditioned or provided with additional amenities, as a result of informal action, and 20 on the initiative of the owners without resort to informal action.

(4) Overcrowding.

(a) No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to Local Authority	Nil
(b) No. of cases of overcrowding abated	Nil
(c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Total No. of houses in the district = 3159

Rural Housing Survey.

Total No. inspected (with classification) :-

	<u>Preliminary.</u>	<u>Detailed.</u>
Category 1	1009	53
" 2	705	482
" 3	310	308
" 4	213	313
Total -	<u>2237</u>	<u>1156</u>

Requisitioned premises etc.

No. of houses held under requisition at the end of the year	39
No. of houses on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made, occupied under licence at the end of the year	9

(5) Provision of new houses.

	<u>Temporary Prefab.</u>	<u>Swedish Timber.</u>	<u>Traditional Type.</u>	<u>Other</u>
(a) During 1951	-	-	94	-
(b) Post-War	35	20	532	36 Priors Down 22 Airey.

Total No. of families re-housed during the year 202

Housing Act 1949 - Improvement Grants.

A total of 6 applications for Improvement Grants have now been received during the year, and work has been completed in respect of 5 of these schemes.

In two cases buildings not previously used for housing accommodation were brought into use, and in the remainder existing cottages were brought up to the required standard.

I see little prospect of the facilities offered by this Act having any material effect on present housing conditions. Any work in connection with which a Grant is given has to be carried out under the general 'licensing ceiling' of the local authority in respect to repair and other similar work. For this reason, even though a local authority may be anxious to publicize the availability of these grants and encourage the 'improvement' of sub-standard property within its district, it is realized that to do so would be totally impracticable if, at the same time, it is not possible to issue the necessary licences within the limited 'licensing ceiling'.

Furthermore, where improvements are contemplated in property already requiring extensive repair work (and this applies to a considerable proportion of the property where 'improvements' are desirable) the improvement of such dwellings becomes economically impossible by reason of limitations imposed by the Rent Restrictions Act referred to below.

Comments.

During the year 22 recommendations for the granting of additional points on medical grounds in connection with their application for a Council house, were made by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the conditions under which 38 applicants were living, following inspections carried out by him.

94 new Council houses were completed and 202 families re-housed during the year, as compared with 99 and 201 respectively during the preceding year.

The 94 new Council houses include a group of 16 old peoples dwellings at Stalbridge. This was the third group to be provided by the Council.

At the end of the year there were 120 applicants for Council houses, of which 114 were resident within the district. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 180 and 172 respectively.

General Remarks.

The provision of new houses alone cannot be expected to solve the present housing problem. Indeed, the present indications are that an increasing number of applicants are finding that they cannot afford to pay the rents now charged, and some authorities are seriously considering whether, with their present resources, they can afford financially to continue providing new houses to the extent they have done in the past.

The concurrent repair, reconditioning and 'improvement' of existing older houses is as equally necessary as the provision of new houses. It may be argued that the existing Housing Law gives a local housing authority full power to carry out their duties in this direction. Even if this may be so, an authority fully conscious of its responsibilities with regard to sub-standard property, is understandably reluctant to take action when it is clearly apparent that even the most benevolent landlord finds it economically impossible to maintain his existing property in a reasonable state of repair because of the present limitations imposed by the Rent Restrictions Acts.

A modification of these Acts in favour of the landlord who is prepared to keep his property in a fit condition is urgently called for if many people, now living in unfit property and who have neither the means nor the desire to live in new Council houses, are to live under reasonable conditions.

17. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

(a) No. of 'dealers' subject to registration after the 1st October 1949 by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949	2
(b) No. of 'dealers' subject to licensing under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949	2
(c) No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949	8
(d) No. of 'distributors' subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949	8

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

	<u>Passed.</u>	<u>Failed.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculin Tested	24	-	24
Accredited	4	1	5
Pasteurised	100	3	103
Non-designated	66	4	70

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

Two new distributors were registered and licenses issued in each case for tuberculin tested and pasteurised milk, their premises being registered as dairies.

One distributor ceased to operate and the premises are not now registered as a dairy.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938

103

No. of such premises which are restaurant kitchens

3

hotel kitchens

24

food factories

12

No. of premises subject to Section 13 inspected during the year

182

No. inspected being -

10

restaurant kitchens

18

hotel kitchens

18

food factories

21

No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938

35

No. of such premises registered in respect to -

(a) Ice-cream

27

(b) Sausages & prepared meats

11

No. of such premises inspected during the year

54

No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue test

41

Results:-	Grade 1	-	38
"	2	-	2
"	3	-	1
"	4	-	Nil

Meat Inspection.

- (a) Slaughterhouses. Nil.
- (b) Butchers and other shops. Quantities condemned:-

Meat	-	158 lbs.
Bacon	-	57 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs
Cooked Ham	-	169 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Corned beef	-	587 x 6 lb. tins.

Other Food. Quantities condemned:-

Chesse - 5 lbs. 4 lbs.
Miscellaneous tins Total - 2 lbs.

(c) Unfit meat on sale for other purposes than human consumption. Instances occur where meat unfit for human consumption is offered for sale to the public for purposes other than human consumption. Providing such meat is clearly labelled as being unfit, the practice does not conflict with public health law. At the same time, there are public health objections to such practice. Such meat may be a source of contamination to other human foodstuffs handled by the housewife who cannot be expected to appreciate the ease or dangers of such contamination, or again it might actually be used by the unscrupulous for human consumption.

It is suggested that it might not be inappropriate for legislation to require that unsound meat should be suitably cooked before being offered for sale to the public in order to eliminate its potential infectivity.

18. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out	Nil
No. of disinfections carried out	1

19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	2228
Total No. of informal notices served	86
Total No. of informal notices complied with	82
Total No. of statutory notices served	12
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	12
No. of prosecutions	Nil

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Incidence:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Measles	71
Pneumonia	2
Whooping cough	1
Scarlet fever	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1

It will be seen that measles was prevalent in the district during the year.

Tuberculosis.

<u>Now Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>
<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
8	2
	-

Food Poisoning.

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.

